

DREAM

STORY: TAEBAL

ART: KYEONGJOON KIM

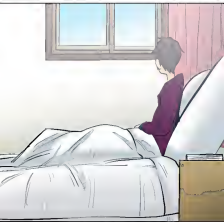




WHEN I WAS FIVE



**I WAS IN A HIT-AND-RUN
ACCIDENT THAT LEFT ME
WITH A SEVERE SPINAL INJURY,
AND FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS
I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO USE
MY UPPER BODY...**





LUCKILY, I CAN STILL USE
BOTH OF MY ARMS...

LATELY,
I'VE SOMETIMES FELT PAIN
AND SIGNS OF PARALYSIS
IN MY SHOULDERS
AND NECK...



**SPENDING
THE LAST TEN YEARS
LIVING IN BED...**



**I'VE ACCEPTED THIS ENDLESS
BOREDOM AS NORMAL.**



MY MOM HAS HAD
TO WORK EVERY DAY
TO COVER MY HOSPITAL BILLS...

MY PHONE...



WAS THE ONLY METHOD
OF COMMUNICATION
WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD...



AND WHENEVER
SHE LEFT
FOR WORK...



SLAM.

I WAS ALWAYS
ALONE.

DAY OR NIGHT,

GIGGLE-
GIGGLE-

A person with dark hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, is shown from the chest up. They are holding a white, rectangular object (possibly a phone or a piece of paper) with both hands, and their head is tilted back as if laughing. The background is a light blue, textured surface.

I WAS CONSTANTLY
LOOKING AT MY PHONE
FOR ENTERTAINMENT.



TAEHYUN KIM

-34 MINUTES AGO-

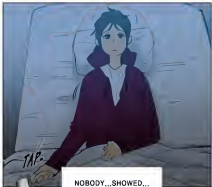
WHAT AN AWESOME SCHOOL TRIP~!!



WRITE A COMMENT...



SCHOOL TRIP...



NOBODY...SHOWED...
ANY SIGN OF INTEREST
IN ME...



I HAD...



MY OWN FRIEND...







**TICK-
TOCK-**



**TICK-
TOCK-**

**TICK-
TOCK-**



WHO COULD
IT BE?

GLANCE-

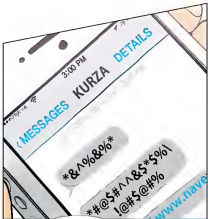


PUSH-

HM..?







KURZA..?
WHAT'S THIS...

THERE'S A LINK...



HI THERE~ EARTHLING~

I'M KURZA,
FROM THE PLANET YARNZAMETA~
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

[http:// www.naver.co.kr](http://www.naver.co.kr)









DON'T WANNA HANG OUT WITH ME?
I WANNA BE YOUR FRIEND
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

LIFT-



TATA- TATATA-

JYOOOL.. I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE..
BUT COULD YOU STOP
MESSING AROUND...?

DING-

I'M NOT MESSING AROUND.
I JUST WANNA BE YOUR FRIEND
I'LL SEND YOU A PICTURE
OF MINE

.....

DING-









!!!?

TATA- TATATA-

I KNOW YOU TRIED...
BUT WHY'RE YOU DOING ALL THIS...?
THIS MAKES NO SENSE...
HOW COULD YOU BE AN ALIEN...

DING-

I'M SERIOUS
WANNA SEE A PICTURE
OF MY FRIENDS?

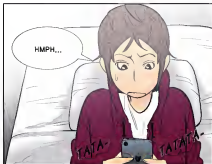


IT'S HARD TO TRUST
A PICTURE...
BUT I CAN TELL YOU'RE
REALLY TRYING,
SO I'LL TRY TO TRUST YOU

RING~

**GOOD,
THANK YOU~~**

AND SO I STARTED EXCHANGING
MESSAGES WITH SOMEONE WHO
CLAIMED TO BE AN ALIEN.





WE WOULD TALK
UNTIL NIGHTTIME
ABOUT ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

ABOUT WHAT HE
OR I EAT...



ABOUT THE WEATHER HERE...
OR WHAT THE WEATHER'S
LIKE OVER THERE...



WHY I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT
TO LIE ON MY BED ALL DAY...
WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SCHOOLS
ON THE PLANET YARNZAMETA...

IT WAS ALL VERY
CASUAL STUFF...



BUT I WAS HAPPY
TO HAVE SOMEONE
TO TALK WITH FOR HOURS.

SINCE THEN, I WOULD STAY UP
ALL NIGHT FOR DAYS
AT A TIME TALKING TO KURZA,
AND IF I DIDN'T HEAR FROM HIM,



I'D WAIT FOR HIM TO MESSAGE ME.

WHO HE WAS... WHETHER HE WAS A PERSON...
OR WHETHER HE REALLY WAS AN ALIEN...
DIDN'T MATTER TO ME.

I WAS JUST SO HAPPY THAT
I FINALLY HAD A REAL FRIEND
WHO WAS INTERESTED IN ME
AND ASKED ME THINGS.





WOW, REALLY?
WHO IS IT?

I'M SORRY BUT...
I CAN'T TELL YOU
WHO IT IS, MOM...
WE MADE A PROMISE
TO EACH OTHER~

HM...
YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE
THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN
TELL ME?

YEAH...

I'M GLAD, JIYOO,
YOU'VE GOT YOUR
OWN FRIEND...





FLUTTER-

FLUTTER-



FOR SEVERAL MONTHS...
I SPENT ALL NIGHT EVERY DAY
MESSAGING KURZA AND
WE BECAME EACH OTHER'S BEST FRIEND.

A comic panel with a black border. It depicts a brown tree branch against a light blue sky. The branch is shown in the process of snapping, with a jagged break. A single green leaf is shown in motion, having just been released from the branch. The word "SNAP" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the right, positioned just above the point of the break. Below the leaf, the word "WHISH-" is written in a similar bold, black, sans-serif font, also slanted upwards to the right, indicating the sound of the leaf's movement.

SNAP

WHISH-

THAT COOL

DING-

JYOOOL...

TATATA- TATA-

HM?
WH



DING-

I THINK..
THIS MESSAGE IS
GONNA BE MY
LAST ONE TO YOU

LAST...!!?

TATATATA!

WHAT??
WHY... WHAT'S WRONG?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

DING-

NO, IT'S JUST...
I'M COMING TO
MEET YOU



FREEZE-

TO MEET...
ME...?



DING!

WAIT A BIT...
I'LL BE THERE SOON!!

I NEVER TOLD HIM
WHERE I LIVE...
HOW'S HE GONNA FIND ME?



KURZA SAID SOON...
BUT A YEAR WENT BY AND HE STILL WASN'T HERE...

AND ME...

WITHOUT EVEN PROPERLY SAYING
GOODBYE TO THE ONLY FRIEND I HAD...

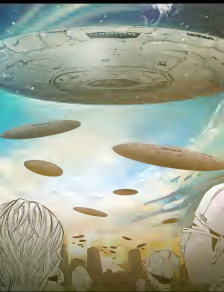
I WAS LEFT ALONE AGAIN,











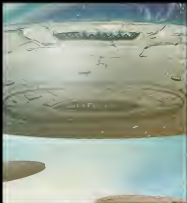
KRRRRRRRR

WHAT THE...?

IS THAT
A PLANE...?
WHAT IS THAT
THING...?

WHY IS IT
SO HUGE...









Cha

Cha

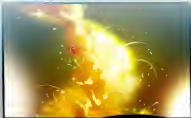
CHHHH...

CHHHH...

CHHHH... CHHHH...

CHHHH... CHHHH...

THE EARTH IS
IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!!!



ALIEN SPACESHIPS
HAVE SURROUNDED
THE EARTH AND ARE BOMBING
EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!!!

M-MOM...
WHAT'S...THAT...



WHERE COULD THEY HAVE
COME FROM!!

CHH-

CHH-

CHH-

OVER 80% OF THE EARTH HAS
ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED
AND THERE'S NO HOPE FOR...AH...
...AAHHH!!!



H-HOW CAN
THIS BE HAPPENING...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT....







COUGH-

UGH...

COUGH-

TREMBLE- COUGH-

M-MOM...
MOM.....

JI...YOOL...?

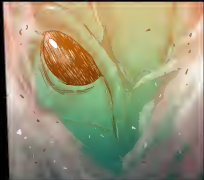


TSSS-



Я...ЮОЛ...?









JI...YOOL!!!!







JIYOOL...
THANKS TO YOU...
WE MANAGED...
TO COME TO EARTH...
YOU GAVE US A LOT
OF INFORMATION
THANK YOU...
JIYOOL...

KURZA...
YOU...
YOU REALLY CAME...





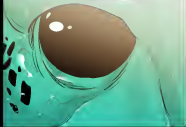


Fig. 1. A laboratory flask containing a dark, opaque liquid, likely a culture medium, with a small white label on the neck.



WHITTING.







JIYOOOL...
I FIXED YOUR LEGS...
NOW...
YOU CAN WALK!!!

SKIP-

SKIP-

JUMP!

HUH..?
HOLY CRAP..
THEY'RE...
REALLY MOVING!!

WHIIING.

SHE'LL BE FINE IN
AROUND THIRTY MINUTES—
DON'T WORRY

YOUR MOM HAS
JUST PASSED OUT
FOR A BIT!!

WHIIING

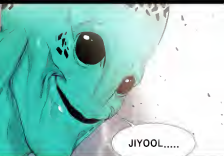






STAND





JIYOOL.....



KURZA...

THANK YOU...
FOR COMING TO SEE ME...



**LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE TOGETHER!!!**

AND SO...

I MET MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD.

TODAY...



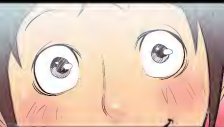
BEEP.

BEEP.

AND TOMORROW...



I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE HAPPILY...

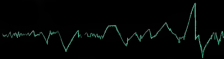




**WITH MY FRIEND!!
KURZA!!**

BEEP.

BEEP.



BEEP.

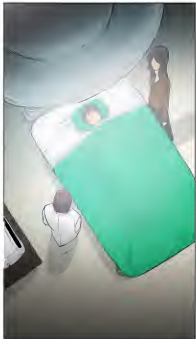
BEEP.

.....

THESE
BRAINWAVES MEAN
HE'S HAPPY—



THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
RIGHT NOW... HE'S HAVING
A VERY GOOD DREAM...









Read the comics on **LINE WEBTOON**
to support the artists!
www.webtoons.com

